



## **Regulatory Update**

### ***CMS Releases ESRD PPS CY 2019 and PFS Rules***

CMS released the Calendar Year 2019 ESRD PPS Rule on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The full rule can be viewed [here](#).

CMS also released the 2019 Physician Fee Schedule – it can be viewed at [this link](#).

There are no major changes for home dialysis, but both present interesting opportunities for comment. The Alliance will draft comment letters for the Alliance’s full review. The Alliance’s Accountability and Reimbursement Working Group call regarding the rules is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Telehealth Expansion under the Comprehensive ESRD Care (CEC) Program***

CMS’ has issued a Telehealth Wavier for several behavioral health codes billable under the CEC Model. The full list of codes and the telehealth waiver can be viewed at [this link](#). Qualified CEC participants will receive a waiver of the originating site requirement for telehealth services. Implementation will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the start of the CEC plan year.

## **Alliance Activities**

### ***Alliance Supports KidneyX Innovation***

The Alliance for Home Dialysis signed a multi-stakeholder letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar commending HHS for the establishment of KidneyX. The KidneyX Innovation Accelerator was originally discussed at Alliance Member American Society of Nephrology’s 2017 Kidney Week. The intent of the Innovation Accelerator is to help improve the lives of those living with kidney diseases by accelerating the development of drugs, devices, biologics and other therapies across the spectrum of kidney care including prevention, diagnostics, and treatment. The full letter of support is attached to this email.

### ***Follow the Alliance on Social Media***

In an effort to boost the Alliance’s reach to lawmakers, patients, and potential members, we are developing a stronger social media presence and strategy. Please follow the Alliance at the links below:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

## **Home Dialysis in the News**

National Kidney Foundation Statement on Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Rule on Medicare Payments to Dialysis Facilities, National Kidney Foundation: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/national-kidney-foundation-statement-on-centers-for-medicare--medicaid-services-rule-on-medicare-payments-to-dialysis-facilities-300680230.html>

They were waiting for an organ transplant. Then their program shut down, CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/11/health/porter-adventist-organ-transplant-closure-patients/index.html>

Utica proposed site of new dialysis center, Utica Observer Dispatch: <http://www.uticaod.com/news/20180712/utica-proposed-site-of-new-dialysis-center>

### **Upcoming ESRD Network Events**

Date: 7/26/18

Event: DPC Educational Call- Kidney Transplantation

Network: 16 & 18 (CA)

Link: [www.dpcedcenter.org/education-call](http://www.dpcedcenter.org/education-call)

Date: 8/21-22/18

Event: CentraCare Health Nephrology Nursing Certification Course

Network: 11 (MN, MI, ND, SD, WI)

Link: <http://midwestkidneynetwork.org/events/centracare-health-nephrology-nursing-certification-course>

Date: 8/28/18

Event: LAN QIA D: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Pain Management

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 9/18/18

Event: QIA B: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Mental Health

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 9/25/18

Event: QIA C: Support Gainful Employment of ESRD Patients

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 10/3/18

Event: Network 3 Annual Meeting

Network: 3 (NJ, PR, USVI)

Link: <https://www.qirn3.org/Annual-Meeting.aspx>

Date: 10/30/18

Event: 6th Annual ANNA/IPRO ESRD Fall Educational Meeting

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

